

From: Blatchley, Brett
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/24/02 11:29am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs;

I did not realize until this morning that I could submit comments related to the Microsoft Settlement, but I've been fuming about this case since it began.

As a 20+ year computer professional, I've been in this business as long as Bill Gates, and I am ever amazed at the degree of audacity, arrogance, and underhanded behavior displayed by Microsoft.

Microsoft is a convicted abuser of the American version of the Free Enterprise System. Moreover, and more to my point: they have not repented -- if anything, they continue the very behavior that their conviction is supposed to put an end to. For example, they are up to their old ways with their .Net initiative, their Windows [instant] Messenger, and they are trying to crush Palm inc. in a manner similar to Netscape. They continue to bully their customers with questionable end-user-license-agreements (ELUAs), and now they are infringing in individuals free-use rights with their XP product-activation policies.

Letting Microsoft off the hook will only encourage more of this kind of behavior. And for Microsoft, delay is victory because once they take-over an area there is no undoing the damage; they will readily pay a fine later if it means capturing a market now.

Generally I'm for less government in the affairs of people, but Microsoft as a major problem and they need to be punished appropriately (read: harshly).

Thanks for your time, consideration, and opportunity to speak-out.

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